

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A combination wireless and wired secure token access distributed network system comprising:
 - a) data token means for storing data, including unique customer identifier data;
 - b) a data collection and transmission node means that has a data memory for storing the location of said data collection and transmission means, for reading and inputting the data token data, and extracting the customer identifier data, ~~including location identifier data where said data token data collection and transmission means is in use~~, and transmitting ~~the customer identifier data and the location where said data collection and transmission means is in use~~;
 - c) a data access point means for receiving said transmitted data from said data collection and ~~transmission~~ means and extracting ~~and transmitting~~ said unique customer identifier data and data collection and transmission means location ~~identifier data~~; and
 - d) network system controller means for receiving the data transmitted by said data access point means and informing a user of said network controller means of the customer identifier data and the data collection and transmission means location ~~identifier data~~, whereby when said network system controller is in use, it allows a user to centrally gather customer identifier data simultaneously with the location of the transmitting data collection and transmission node.
2. (original) The combination wireless and wired secure token access distributed network system according to claim 1, wherein said data token means includes a magnetic stripe card.
3. (original) The combination wireless and wired secure token access distributed network system according to claim 1, wherein said data token means includes a chip card.

4. (original) The combination wireless and wired secure token access distributed network system according to claim 2, wherein said data collection and transmission node means includes a magnetic card reader having a wireless communications transmitter.

5. (original) The combination wireless and wired secure token access distributed network system according to claim 3, wherein said data collection and transmission node means includes a chip card reader having a wireless communications transmitter.

6. (previously presented) The combination wireless and wired secure token access distributed network system according to claim 1, wherein said data access point means includes a wireless communications capability whereby all said data collection and transmission node means within the broadcast radius of said data access point means is in wireless communications with said data access point means.

7. (original) The combination wireless and wired secure token access distributed network system according to claim 1, wherein said data access point means includes a hard wired communications capability whereby said network system controller means communicates with said data access point means.

8. (original) The combination wireless and wired secure token access distributed network system according to claim 1, wherein said network system controller means includes encoding means for encoding customer identifier data onto said data token means.

9. (original) The combination wireless and wired secure token access distributed network system according to claim 1, wherein said data access point means stores the data from said data collection and transmission means in a format which is available for TCP/IP access.

10. (original) The combination wireless and wired secure token access distributed network system according to claim 1, wherein said data access point means includes overlapping broadcast radiiuses to enable multiple data access points to communicate with multiple data collection and transmission nodes and thereby enabling a built-in system redundancy.

11. (previously presented) The combination wireless and wired secure token access distributed network system according to claim 10, wherein said data access point means including overlapping broadcast radiuses to enable multiple data access points to communicate with multiple data collection and transmission nodes means includes a repeater access point in communication with said data access points to enable long range data communication between data collection and transmission nodes within and outside the broadcast radius of said data access points.

12. (original) The combination wireless and wired secure token access distributed network system according to claim 1, wherein said network system controller means includes a central network system controller in wired communication with several peripheral network system controllers for the purpose of centrally gathering data transmissions from multiple data access points in communication with multiple data collection and transmission nodes.

13. (Withdrawn) An on-premises restaurant communication system for communicating an identifier for a customer's table to a central service counter, said system comprising:

- a) central service counter having a network system controller means for reading a data token that is provided to the customer when the customer places a food order, said token with a customer identifier number;
- b) data input means in a communication device mounted on the customer's table in the form of a data collection and transmission node for inputting the data token and extracting the customer number therefrom;
- c) data memory in the data collection and transmission node that stores the table identifier;
- d) a communication transmitter in the data collection and transmission node that transmits a message containing the extracted customer number and the table identifier;
- e) communication receiver means in a data access point device that receives the message and extracts the customer number and the table identifier therefrom; and
- f) a user interface in the network system controller that receives the extracted customer number and table identifier from the data access point and informs a food server of the table identifier for the customer's table.

14. (Withdrawn) The restaurant communication device according to claim 13 further comprising means within the network system controller for encoding a customer number on the data token.

15. (Withdrawn) The restaurant communication device according to claim 13 further comprising a communication transmitter in the data collection and transmission node that transmits a message containing the extracted customer number and the table identifier in short bursts in the 433 MHz radio frequency band to meet FFC transmission requirements at random intervals to avoid multiple collisions.

16. (Withdrawn) The restaurant communication device according to claim 13 further comprising a magnetic stripe reader for reading magnetic stripe data token in the data collection and transmission node.

17. (Withdrawn) The restaurant communication device according to claim 13 further comprising a chip card reader for reading chip card data token in the data collection and transmission node.

18. (Withdrawn) The restaurant communication device according to claim 13 further comprising:

a) a communication transmitter and receiver in the communication device and data collection and transmission node that transmits a message containing the extracted customer number and the table identifier;

b) said communication transmitter and receiver receives transmitted data integrity confirmation from the data access point; and

c) a communication transmitter and receiver in said data access point that receives the message and extracts the customer number and the table identifier;

whereby said communication transmitter and receiver in said data access point transmits an acknowledgment back to the data collection and transmission node.

19. (Withdrawn) The restaurant communication device according to claim 18 further comprising a customer identification token reader data collection and transmission node with the capability to order menu items from the table and a payment token reader to accept payment for menu items ordered.

20. (Withdrawn) The restaurant communication device according to claim 19 further comprising:

- a) a customer identification token reader in the data collection and transmission node;
- b) a credit card magnetic stripe reader in the data collection and transmission node;
- c) an encryption engine to secure all sensitive payment token data prior to being transmitted by the data collection and transmission node;
- d) a data access point device capable of accepting the encrypted message from the data collection and transmission node; and
- e) accessing a payment gateway to process the payment transaction.

21. (Withdrawn) The restaurant communication device according to claim 13 further comprising a network system controller software application with a graphical interface to display table and data token status from the data access point including current table status such as length of time the customer has waited since ordering.

22. (Withdrawn) The restaurant communication device according to claim 13 further comprising multiple data access points each covering overlapping areas of the restaurant and said multiple data access point's each having wireless or wired connectivity to one or more network system controllers.

23. (Withdrawn) The restaurant communication device according to claim 13 further comprising portable computing devices which communicate with the data collection and transmission nodes and the data access points allowing servers to enter transactions for customer orders and payment processing.

24. (Withdrawn) The restaurant communication device according to claim 13 further comprising one or more data access points connecting to a network system controller through intranet and/or internet networks.

25. (Withdrawn) A wireless casino gaming controller and communication system for communicating game status and statistics, said system comprising:

- a) multiple data collection and transmission nodes which monitor and track the various game statistics;
- b) one or more network data access points and communications means for the game status to be transmitted to said network access points at regular time intervals;
- c) data collection and transmission node and communications means for said network access points to collect data from multiple data collection and transmission nodes and forward the collected information to a network system controller; and
- d) a software application in the network system controller to display the statistics of multiple games.

26. (Withdrawn) A wireless casino gaming controller and communication system according to claim 25 further comprising multiple network data access points each covering overlapping areas of the casino, and each of said multiple network data access points having wireless or wired connectivity to one or more network system controllers.

27. (Withdrawn) A wireless casino gaming controller and communication system according to claim 25 further comprising one or more network data access points which connect to a network system controller through intranet and/or internet networks.

28. (Withdrawn) A wireless casino gaming controller and communication system according to claim 25 further comprising a software application in the network system controller which directs a graphical user interface to display status and statistical data from all of the games being monitored at a remote location.

29. (Withdrawn) A wireless casino gaming controller and communication system according to claim 27 further comprising multiple data collection and transmission nodes that accept a data token containing player identification data for the purpose of player activity tracking, and a software application in the network system controller which monitors player tracking data and notifies management when defined criteria is met for player warnings and/or rewards.

30. (Withdrawn) A wireless casino gaming controller and communication system according to claim 27 comprising multiple data collection and transmission nodes which accept a secure token for player tracking and payment acceptance, and a software application within the network system controller through which monitors and records the secure token monetary value and validates the secure token for validity, and notifies the network system controller operator if a secure token has been compromised.

31. (Withdrawn) A wireless casino gaming controller and communication system according to claim 27 comprising portable computing devices which communicate with the data collection and transmission nodes and the network data access points allowing servers and game administrators to monitor game status and enter transactions for customer orders and payment processing.

32. (Withdrawn) A wireless casino gaming controller and communication system according to claim 27 further comprising multiple data collection and transmission nodes and network data access points where each network data access point gathers information from a group of data collection and transmission nodes called a micro-net, and further where:

- a) each micro-net operates on a different subset of the available RF frequencies to avoid data collisions;
- b) each network data access point scans its assigned set of frequencies for active data collection and transmission nodes and forwards the data to the network system controllers; and
- c) each data collection and transmission node selects the network data access point with the best signal integrity from a list of available micro-nets, whereby the list of micro-nets is supplied by the network system controller.

33. (Withdrawn) A wireless casino gaming controller and communication system according to claim 27 further comprising multiple network data access points in communication with multiple repeater access points where selected network data access points can forward information though said repeater access points to the network system controller.

34. (Withdrawn) A wireless casino gaming controller and communication system according to claim 33 further comprising multiple network data access points in communication with multiple repeater access points where selected network data access points can forward information though said repeater access points to the network system controller, said repeater access point are in wireless communication with each other as well as said network access points.

35. (Withdrawn) An entry access system communicating an identifier for an employee's identification and location to a network system controller and responding to the selected locations door activation with a access request, said system comprising:

- a) a data token and a data token input means in a communication device mounted on the access door in the form of a data collection and transmission node for the purpose of inputting the data token stored data and extracting the employee's identification therefrom;
- b) a data collection and transmission node and a communication transmitter in the data collection and transmission node that transmits a message containing the extracted employee identification number and the door identifier data;
- c) a data memory in the data collection and transmission node that stores the access door identifier data;
- d) a data access point and a communication receiver in said data access point that receives the message and extracts the employee id number and the door identifier therefrom, and
- e) a network system controller and a user interface in said network system controller that receives the extracted employee identification number and door identifier data from said data access point and validates the employee's entry authority, and sends a command to the door lock to enable entry.

36. (Withdrawn) The entry access system according to claim 35 further comprising means within the network system controller for encoding an employee identification number on the data token.

37. (Withdrawn) The entry access system according to claim 35 further comprising a communication transmitter in the data collection and transmission node that transmits a message containing the employee identification number and the door identifier data in short bursts, in the 433 MHz radio frequency band to meet FFC transmission requirements, at random intervals to avoid multiple collisions.

38. (Withdrawn) The entry access system according to claim 35 further comprising a magnetic stripe data token and a magnetic stripe reader for reading said magnetic stripe data token in the data collection and transmission node.

39. (Withdrawn) The entry access system according to claim 35 further comprising a chip card data token and a chip card reader for reading said chip card data token in the data collection and transmission node.

40. (Withdrawn) The entry access system according to claim 35 further comprising a communication transmitter and receiver in said data collection and transmission node that transmits a message containing the employee identification number and the door identifier data, and receives the transmitted data integrity confirmation from the data access point; and a communication transmitter and receiver in the data access point that receives the message and extracts the employee id number and the door identifier and transmits an acknowledgment back to the data collection and transmission node.

41. (Withdrawn) The entry access system according to claim 35 further comprising a network system controller having a software application with a graphical interface to display all access points status from the data access point including current door status.

42. (Withdrawn) The entry access system according to claim 35 further comprising multiple data access points each covering overlapping areas of an organization, and each with wireless or wired connectivity to one or more network system controllers.

43. (Withdrawn) The entry access system according to claim 35 further comprising portable computing devices which communicate with the data collection and transmission nodes and the data access points, allowing emergency and security personnel to enter any door quickly at any time.

44. (Withdrawn) The entry access system according to claim 35 further comprising one or more data access points connecting to a network system controller through intranet and/or internet networks.

45. (previously presented) A system, comprising:

a data token configured to store data comprising token identifier data;

a data collection node comprising a data memory for storing the location of the data collection node, the data collection node configured to access the token identifier data from the data token, and further configured to send the token identifier and the location of the data collection node to a network system controller; and

wherein the network system controller receives the data sent by the data access point and provides the token identifier and location of the data collection node to a user, whereby the network system controller allows the user to centrally gather token identifier data with the location of the data collection node at which the token identifier data was accessed.

46. (previously presented) The system of claim 45, wherein the data collection node is configured to send the token identifier and the location of the data collection node to a data access point and wherein the data access point is configured to receive the transmitted data from said data collection and transmission node and send the token identifier data and location data to the network system controller.

47. (previously presented) A system, comprising:

a plurality of data collection nodes disposed at respective locations, wherein each data collection node comprises a data memory for storing its respective location, and each data collection node is configured to access a token identifier from a data token placed in communicative proximity with the data collection node;

a controller in communicative contact with the data collection nodes, and configured to receive the token identifier and the location from a data collection node; and wherein the controller is further configured to communicate the location of a data tokens placed in communicative proximity with a data collection node.

48. (previously presented) The system of claim 47, further comprising a data access point proximate to the data collection nodes and configured to receive the location and token identifier from the data collection nodes and to transmit the location and token identifier data to the controller.

49. (previously presented) The system of claim 48, wherein the controller comprises software to poll the data access point for the token identifier and the location data.

50. (previously presented) The system of claim 48, wherein the data access point is in wireless communication with a data collection node and wired communication with the controller.

51. (currently amended) The system of claim 48, wherein the stored location of the data collection nodes is ~~resolvable to a degree of accuracy to enable identifying used to identify~~ the specific location of the data collection nodes within the proximity of the data access point.

52. (previously presented) The system of claim 48, further comprising a repeater access point proximate a subset of the data collection nodes and configured to receive the location and token identifier data from its respective data collection node or nodes and to transmit the location and token identifier data to the data access point for subsequent communication to the controller.

53. (previously presented) The system of claim 47, further comprising a plurality of data access points, each data access point proximate to a subset of the data collection nodes and configured to receive the location and token identifier data from its respective data collection node or nodes and to transmit the location and token identifier data to the controller.

54. (previously presented) The system of claim 53, wherein the data access points are configured to store location and token identifier data received from their respective data collection node or nodes, and wherein the controller is configured to poll the data access point to capture the stored data.

55. (previously presented) The system of claim 53, wherein the data access points include overlapping communication areas to enable a data access point to communicate with more than one data collection node.

56. (previously presented) The system of claim 47, wherein the data token comprises a magnetic stripe card or a chip card.

57. (previously presented) The system of claim 47, wherein the stored location of the data collection nodes is resolvable to a degree of accuracy to enable distinguishing the location of a data collection node from the other data collection nodes.

58. (previously presented) A method, comprising:

receiving identifier data from a data token placed in a location in communicative proximity to a data collection node;

storing at the data collection node a location of the data collection node;

forwarding the identifier data and the location to a central controller to thereby enable location of a data token placed in communicative proximity with a data collection node.

59. (previously presented) The method of claim 58, wherein the step of forwarding comprises the steps of the data collection node forwarding the identifier data and the location to a data access point, and the data access point forwarding this information to the central controller.

60. (previously presented) The method of claim 58, further comprising the step of resolving the location of the data token to a degree of accuracy such that its location at its respective data collection node can be identified as distinct from the locations of the other data collection nodes.